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H50

ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	WHA-00
	PDI-00	EB-00	E-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00	IO-00
	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OES-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00
	EPAU-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	BEG-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4196
INFO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY
USDOC WASHDC 2198

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 001339

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, OPRC, OIIP, ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: EUROPE: SECRETARY RICE IN EUROPE,
GERMANY; WESTERN HEMISPHERE: VENEZUELAN LEGISLATIVE
ELECTIONS; SAO PAULO

1. "Secretary Begins European Tour Under Dark Clouds"
Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo Paris correspondent Giles Lapouge comments (12/6): "Secstate Condoleezza Rice is willing to reestablish ties with Europe. The moment is a favorable one, but a dark cloud was suddenly created. It's the CIA airplanes.. They have been found everywhere, in the Balkans, Italy, Romania, Scotland. They landed in these nations' airports with a mysterious cargo. According to the Europeans, such cargoes are not a mystery. They are presumed terrorists who are to be transported by the CIA to secret prisons far away from the reach of the U.S. justice and law. In those prisons, torture could be applied without legal sanctions.. According to Amnesty International, German authorities were aware of the mysterious flights over Europe.. But requests for explanations have little chance of being heard.. The European committee has already declared that it is waiting for explanations. But Condoleezza Rice will not meet with any EC member."
2. "Tension In Venezuela"

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Liberal Folha de S. Paulo (12/6) editorialized: "There is no doubt that Venezuela will be better the day that it succeeds in getting rid of President Hugo Chavez, but the caudillo must leave the government through the force of the ballot, not by non-democratic means. In this context, the Venezuelan opposition's attempt to demoralize the parliamentary election was a mistake.. The consequences of that decision are potentially disastrous for Venezuelan institutions.. A bad scenario has been created in Venezuela. On the one hand, we have an authoritarian leader increasingly free to go on distorting the institutions according to his interest. On the other hand, there is the opposition that, betting on the impasse, resigned from the political dispute, which is the legitimate stage to solve differences. Since nothing indicates that the split affecting the Venezuelan society will disappear soon, it will be no surprise if opposition sectors once again try to launch a coup."

3. "Winner And Major Loser At The Same Time"

Center-right O Estado de S. Paulo correspondent in Caracas, Lourival Sant'Anna remarked (12/6): "Normally, elections have winners and losers, but not in Venezuela, a nation of ambiguities. The National Assembly that was elected Sunday will give President Hugo Chavez unconditional and absolute support. However, he was also the major loser. He mobilized the whole government both politically and logistically to convince the voters to vote, but only one out of every four voters responded to his appeal. The main ambiguity of that electoral process consists in that in technical, legal and formal terms it is incontestable.. International observers witnessed the elections' fairness.. If Chavez's popularity is maintained, he may remain in the presidency for at least 2017, when he will complete 18 years in power." McMullen

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